

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment in reply to the Office Action dated October 24, 2003. As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 5-21.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 16 to more clearly define the invention. Claims 5 and 16 are independent claims.

Before entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-22 were pending in this application, with claims 1-3 having been withdrawn from consideration. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-22 are still pending in this application, with claims 1-3 still having been withdrawn from consideration.

The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to claims 5 and 16. No new matter was introduced.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 5-21 for an informality. Applicants have amended claims 5 and 16 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for an alleged lack of antecedent basis. Applicants amended claim 16, and it is believed to fully satisfy the statute. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection.

Applicant further submits that dependent claims 6-15 and 17-22 are patentable over the cited references, including Zhao, Moore, Fraser, Wolf, Chen, and the other art of record. This is true whether such art is considered alone or in any proper combination, in particular, at least due to the dependency of claims 6-15, directly or

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indirectly, from independent claim 5, and the dependency of claims 17-22, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 16.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification, claims, abstract, and drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicant is in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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